

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USUSSION NATO PRIORITY 3436
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDELMC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY
DIRNSA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 4259

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: HELLENIKON
DEPENDENT SUPPORT FACILITIES

REFS: A. 76 ATHENS 10915 (DTG 110526Z OCT 76)
B. STATE 79933 (DTG 090001Z APR 77)
C. ATHENS 3845 (DTG 271356Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETINGS ON MAY 4 AND 6, THE WORKING
GROUP AGREED ON WHICH "DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES" COULD
REMAIN ON HELLENIKON AIR BASE AND WHICH SHOULD BE RELOCATED
OFF THE BASE. THOSE TO BE RELOCATED ARE LIMITED IN NUMBER
AND WITHIN THE ESSENCE OF US INSTRUCTIONS. US SIDE AGREED
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TO CERTAIN CAVEATS IN ORDER TO RETAIN THEATER AND NURSERY.
RETENTION OF CAFETERIA REQUIRES A WASHINGTON DECISION.
PERCENTAGE LIMIT WAS PLACED ON US PERSONNEL
ENGAGED IN OFF-BASE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN A MANNER WHICH
SATISFIES GREEK PRESENTATIONAL CONCERNS WITHOUT IMPACT-
ING ADVERSELY ON US REQUIREMENTS. GREEKS WERE ENTHUSIAS-
TIC OVER US DESIRE TO EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF CONSOLI-

DATING BASE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES AT OTHER THAN THE FORD BUILDING DOWNTOWN. ACTION REQUEST: SEE PARA 16. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING LABRORIUS DISCUSSIONS ON EACH AND EVERY OF THE HUNDRED OR SO SEPARATE US OPERATIONAL AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS AT HELLENIKON (BASED ON THE LIST WE PROVIDED THEM IN 1975), THE GREEKS REEMPHASIZED THEIR REAL POLITICAL CONCERN WITH THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE US PRESENCE AT THE AIR BASE. WANTING TO ELIMINATE ALL THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR DEPENDENTS TO VISIT THE BASE, THEY WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT, IN ADDITION TO BX ACTIVITIES, THE THEATER, BOWLING ALLEY, MILK PLANT, CAFETERIA, AND NURSERY BE RELOCATED. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE STANDARD GREEK PRACTICE OF RESTRICTING THEIR OWN DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO THOSE WHO ACTUALLY LIVE ON BASE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVES WERE VISIBLY EMBARRASSED OVER THE RELOCATIONS THEY WERE FORCED TO ADVOCATE AND SEEMED TO BE SEARCHING FOR WAYS AND MEANS TO SATISFY BOTH GREEK POLITICAL OBJECTIVES AND THE US DESIRE TO MINIMIZE MOVES OFF THE BASE. THUS, IN THE END, THEY PROVED RECEPTIVE TO MUCH OF THE ARGUMENTATION WE USED.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF ACTIVITIES TO BE RELOCATED. DEPENDING ON WASHINGTON DECISION, CAFETERIA MIGHT HAVE TO BE ADDED (SEE PARA 4 BELOW);

A. BASE EXCHANGE RETAIL STORE, INCLUDING SEPARATE BEVERAGE STORES, AND CONCESSIONAIRE ACTIVITIES.
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B. CLASS VI STORE.
C. DEPENDENT SCHOOLS (ALREADY RELOCATED).
D. FAMILY SERVICES CENTER
E. HOUSING REFERRAL OFFICE.
F. CHILD CARE CENTER, BUT A "LIMITED NURSERY" MAY BE OPERATED ON THE BASE. (THIS IS A PLAY ON WORDS WHICH THE GREEKS SUGGESTED IN ORDER TO LIST THE RELOCATION OF A MAJOR DEPENDENT SUPPORT ITEM, FOR PRESENTATION PURPOSES, WITHOUT HAVING THE US MAKE ANY CHANGE AT ALL. LISTING THE NURSERY THIS WAY PROVIDES AUTHORITY FOR SUCH A FUTURE ACTIVIMVTY OFF-BASE IF THE US SO DESIRES.)
G. THE MAST (MARRIED AIRMEN SHARING TOGETHER) ACTIVITY MAY BE RETAINED ON THE BASE OR RELOCATED OFF-BASE ALONG WITH THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTER; THE GREEKS PREFER THE LATTER.

4. CAFETERIA: CONTRARY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PREVIOUS GREEK VIEWS, THE CAFETERIA PROVED TO BE, AND STILL REMAINS, OUR MOST TROUBLESOME PROBLEM. THE GREEKS ARE AWARE OF THE

HIGH DEPENDENT-DRAWING POWER OF THIS FACILITY AND ARE ADAMANT THAT IT BE RELOCATED OFF-BASE OR CLOSED TO DEPENDENTS. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY WILL PERMIT IT TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS WHATSOEVER, IF THE US AGREES TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER AAFES CAFETERIA COLLOCATED WITH THE OFF-BASE COMMISSARY/EXCHANGE COMPLEX TO SIPHON OFF ON-BASE DEPENDENT TRAFFIC. WITHOUT TRYING TO DICTATE SIZE, THE GREEKS WANT SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SNACK BAR WITH A SIGN "CAFETERIA." WE PLAN TO MAKE A NEW ATTEMPT BUT, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT GREEKS WILL ACCEPT A SCHEME SIMILAR TO THAT APPLIED TO THE THEATER IN PARA 5 BELOW. SEE ACTION REQUEST, PARA 15.

5. THEATER: INITIALLY, GREEKS DEMANDED THAT THE 250-SEAT THEATER BE RELOCATED OR CLOSED TO DEPENDENTS. FINALLY, IN RETURN FOR GREEK AGREEMENT THAT THE THEATER COULD BE RETAINED ON THE BASE, THE US SIDE AGREED THAT THE US WOULD "EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONFIDENTIAL

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THEATER OUTSIDE THE BASE" (GREEKS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS "COMPROMISE" SINCE IT HOLDS NO SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO MOVE. THIS ITEM MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO PARA 13 BELOW.)

6. CONVENIENCE STORE, MILITARY UNIFORM OUTLET, BARBER SHOP: GREEKS AGREED THAT A VERY SMALL STORE (TO BE CALLED "CANTEEN") COULD BE MAINTAINED ON THE BASE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PERSONNEL LIVING AND WORKING THERE AND, IN ADDITION TO NECESSITY ITEMS, COULD BE STOCKED WITH LIMITED QUANTITIES OF ITEMS FORMERLY AVAILABLE IN THE CLASS VI AND BEVERAGE STORE, IF THE US DESIRES, GREEKS ALSO AGREED THAT A UNIFORM OUTLET COULD BE MAINTAINED ON-BASE. THE QUESTION OF RETAINING AN ON-BASE BARBER SHOP WAS OVERLOOKED IN THESE LENGTHY, TEDIOUS DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS CAN BE INCLUDED WHEN WE WORK OUT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE COVERING THE ENTIRE DEPENDENT SUPPORT SUBJECT NEXT WEEK.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 458
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INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIRITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDELMC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY
DIRNSA PRIORITY

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7. TRAVEL AGENCY: GREEKS OBJECTED TO THE CONTINUATION OF THIS ACTIVITY ON-BASE, BUT DID NOT CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ARGUE OVER. INSTEAD, THEY MERELY ASKED THAT THE US CONSIDER THE QUESTION WITH GOOD WILL AND SYMPATHY FOR THE GREEK POSITION AND DECIDE WHETHER IT COULD RELOCATE THIS ACTIVITY WITHOUT UNDUE INCONVENIENCE.

8. MILK PLANT: THE SAGA OF THE MILK PLANT ENDED WHEN, AFTER A TOOTH-PULLING EXERCISE, WE EXTRACTED GREEK AGREEMENT THAT IT COULD REMAIN ON THE BASE.

9. BOWLING ALLEY; ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT IT ATTRACTED DEPENDENTS, THE GREEKS FINALLY ACCEPTED OUR ARGUMENTS AND AGREED THAT THE BOWLING ALLEY COULD STAY.
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10. ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES NOT MENTIONED ABOVE, BUT WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN THE DEPENDENT SUPPORT CATEGORY, WILL REMAIN ON THE BASE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THEIR CONTINUATION WILL BE DOCUMENTED IN ANNEX B TO THE APPENDIX.

11. TRANSITION PERIOD: THE US AND GREEK SIDES AGREED THAT ALL PERSONNEL CHANGES AND RELOCATIONS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN TWENTY-ONE MONTHS AFTER THE DCA ENTERS INTO FORCE. (THIS ADDS NINE MONTHS TO THE ONE YEAR OBJECTIVE IN REF B.)

12. LIMIT ON OFF-BASE PERSONNEL; THE GREEKS REAFFIRMED THEIR PREVIOUS AGREEMENT THAT US PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH CARRYING OUT DEPENDENT SUPPORT OR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES (CLUBS, ETC.) OFF-BASE WOULD NOT COUNT AGAINST THE ON-BASE US PERSONNEL LEVEL OF 1452. HOWEVER, IN DOING SO THEY EXPRESSED THE NEED, FOR PRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, TO SHOW THAT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF THESE PERSONNEL. WE INFORMED THEM THAT WE WERE NOT ABOUT TO ENGAGE IN ANOTHER NUMBERS EXERCISE AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER RESTRICTION ON OUR ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, THERE ARE 122 FULL-TIME US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NOW OFF-BASE OR WHICH WILL BE RELOCATED OFF-BASE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE AGREED TO SPECIFY THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN CARRYING OUT THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT EXCEED "ABOUT TEN PERCENT" (READ 15 PERCENT) OF THE ON-BASE AUTHORIZATION OF 1452. A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ON-BASE AUTHORIZATION WAS MERELY TO USE A CONVENIENT BASE TO APPLY AN INDEFINATE (AND RELATIVELY MEANINGLESS) PERCENTAGE FIGURE, THUS AVOIDING ANY SPECIFIC NEW NUMBERS. THE WORD "ABOUT" WAS A GREEK SUGGESTION TO SHOW A PERCENTAGE NUMBER AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND STILL PROVIDE BOTH AN ADEQUATE PAD AGAINST ANY ERROR IN COMPUTATION OF THE 122 NUMBER AND ADEQUATE FLEXIBILITY TO MEET POSSIBLE

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FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. (WE ARE AWARE THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 60 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES. EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE GREEKS MIGHT CHOOSE TO INCLUDE THEM WITHIN THE "ABOUT TEN PERCENT" LIMIT AT SOME FUTURE DATE, A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE COUNT BECAUSE THEY ARE US MILITARY OR CIVILIANS ALREADY COUNTED IN THE ON-BASE NUMBER OF 1452.)

13. GREEKS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC OVER US WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATING COMMISSARY/ EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES AT SOME OTHER LOCATION THAN THE PRESENT COMPLEX IN THE FORD BUILDING ON BUSY SYNGROU AVENUE. WE STATED THAT THE APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES, THEREFORE, WOULD PERFORM THE NECESSARY SURVEYS AND SEEK APPROPRIATE GOG AGREEMENT IF ANY SATISFACTORY ALTERNATE LOCATION IS IDENTIFIED.

14. AS NOTED IN SEPTTEL ON HELLENIKON APPENDIX AND ANNEX A, WE CONVINCED THE GREEKS THAT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH AAFES REGIONAL HQ (GLYFADA STEAK HOUSE), THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OFFICE, AND THE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (OFF-BASE BUILDING TEMPO 1) SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO MOVE ONTO THE BASE AND BE COUNTED WITHIN THE 1452 LIMIT. WE HAVE, THEREFORE COUNTED THESE PEOPLE IN THE 122 MENTIONED IN PARA 12

ABOVE. WHILE THIS WORKS TO OUR ADVANTAGE NOW, THERE IS NOTHING IN THE DCA PACKAGE NOR WILL THERE BE ANY PROVISION IN THE "INTERIM LETTER" ON HELLENIKON WHICH WOULD PREVENT OUR MOVING THESE PEOPLE ONTO THE BASE AND WITHIN THE 1452 LIMIT IF WE LATER CHOOSE TO DO SO.

15. WE INTEND NOW TO WORK WITH THE GREEKS TO INCORPORATE ALL THE ABOVE UNDERSTANDINGS, ALONG WITH THE HELLENIKON COST SHARING TEXT WHICH WAS APPROVED BY WASHINGTON DURING THE LAST ROUND, IN THE "INTERIM LETTER" ON HELLENIKON. WE HOPE TO NEGOTIATE THIS DRAFT AND HAVE IT IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 9 IN THE EXPECTATION THAT WE COULD RECEIVE APPROVAL
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NOT LATER THAN OOB MAY 12.

16 ACTION REQUEST: THAT WASHINGTON FOCUS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR AGREEMENT ACROSS THE TABLE ON THE SPECIFIC ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IN ADVANCE OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT "INTERIM LETTER." A PROMPT WASHINGTON DECISION ON WHICH OPTION TO CHOOSE IN REGARD TO THE CAFETERIA (QARA 4 ABOVE) WILL BE NEEDED TO CLOSE THIS ISSUE IF GREEK POSITION REMAINS FIRM.

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